

Cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question, is it right?

It is right to secure the blessings of liberty, not just for ourselves but our posterity.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is a harsh truth, and we have to address it. My colleague is right. As he implied there, the inevitable result of living beyond our means today is that we and our children inevitably are going to have to live below our means tomorrow.

We are going to have higher debt, higher taxes, less security, less opportunity. It is not going to be the same America that we have always known and valued. It is a harsh truth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my good friend.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I know normally this hour is taken up with speeches that I think are not bipartisan enough. I have decided to take this time to congratulate President Biden on his decision not to veto the bill we are sending over to him, which will prevent the District of Columbia from decreasing the penalties for severe crimes committed in this city.

I think what President Biden has done is finally recognized what a lot of us have been saying over the last few years. The District of Columbia is just plainly and simply not capable of self-governance at this time. I am glad President Biden agrees with us on that topic.

Right now, the District of Columbia has the second-highest spending per capita in the country on its schools, trailing only New York. Nevertheless, its test scores are abysmal.

The over 200 murders last year in the Nation's Capital is also an embarrassment, and that number has skyrocketed this year so far as of mid-February.

I will tell you, this is the Nation's Capital. There is no city we should care about more than the District of Columbia. It should be a shining light to represent the United States. People come here from all around the world.

I remember once I took a trip to Taipei, the large capital city of Taiwan. I was there with some friends. I asked our tour guide if there was anywhere at night we should not go, expecting there were some places we could not walk to without danger. We were told there was nowhere in Taipei we can't go. Nowhere in Taipei is not safe.

I was kind of embarrassed about my country because I thought, well, I was safe going to Taipei, but if I had visitors coming from Taiwan to Washington, D.C., I would be talking for quite a while, explaining all the places we couldn't go here.

I don't know whether people are aware that Vladimir Putin makes fun of our country for allowing such decline in the District of Columbia, not only how embarrassingly high our

crime rate is but how embarrassingly low our test scores in the schools are, how embarrassing it is to have so many homeless people wherever you look.

I hope President Biden builds on this new conversion in which he is admitting the District of Columbia is not capable, apparently, of setting appropriate punishments for crimes here.

I look forward to working with President Biden on perhaps things we can do to improve the decisions by the local school board on their schools, maybe make some changes in their welfare policies that lead to so many homeless people here.

In any event, like I said, I would like to end tonight's speeches on an upbeat message, thanking President Biden for his conversion to the understanding that the people here in the District of Columbia, who, by the way, he is not a perfect man, but they voted 6 percent for Donald Trump in the last election. I kind of wondered what type of people would do that, but they did.

In any event, hopefully, President Biden will be happy to meet with us and think of other things we can do to improve life in our Nation's Capital.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I point out, as he said, that our resolution blocking those crazy changes to D.C.'s criminal code was so strong that even Joe Biden couldn't agree to veto it. We are doing the right thing. We must continue, and we will.

I am grateful to my Republican colleagues for joining me for this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 197. Resolution providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; with an amendment (Rept. 118-8). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr.

MOYLAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. FRY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. MACE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mrs. McCLAIN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 1434. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty to receive self defense training once a month to combat sexual assault; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. LATTI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. EMMER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ROY, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MAST, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. GUEST, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BOST, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GRIF-FITH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. BICE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HERN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MANN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 1435. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BROWN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 1436. A bill to provide additional funding for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ROSE (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 1437. A bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures in order to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 1438. A bill to require certain non-profit and not-for-profit social welfare organizations to submit disclosure reports on foreign funding to the Attorney General; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 1439. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.